

community, Dr. Cornforth has always provided care with the highest standard of excellence. Dr. Cornforth's dedication to serving others extends far beyond practicing medicine. In 2012, he and his wife, Edna, donated one million dollars for the cancer center at San Joaquin Community Hospital, its lobby now named the Cornforth Family Pavilion. Dr. and Mrs. Cornforth's generosity to those in need is truly commendable and has made a lasting, positive impact on the Central Valley community.

Today, Dr. Cornforth retires from his practice in Delano, Donald E. Cornforth, M.D., Inc., and from his position as Chief Medical Officer at the San Joaquin Community Hospital, where he also served as the head of their nationally recognized Stroke Center for three years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking Dr. Cornforth for his service to his country, the medical community, and the Central Valley.

CONGRATULATING THE THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE AUTHORITY ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority on its 80th anniversary.

On August 18, 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King officially opened the Thousand Islands Bridge System, marking a key connection between the North Country and Ontario. Made using 30,000 barrels of cement, 6,550 tons of steel, and 575,000 Canadian and American man hours, the system of five bridges covers 8.4 miles and serves over 2,000,000 vehicles annually in the Thousand Islands region of the St. Lawrence River. For 80 years, the Thousand Islands Bridge System has not only served as a key economic route for American and Canadian businesses and tourists, but has also fostered the sharing of knowledge and culture between the United States and its important ally.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to commemorate the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority and its 80 years of service to the North Country and Ontario.

IN MEMORY OF ARETHA FRANKLIN, LEGENDARY PERFORMING ARTIST, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, CULTURAL ICON, AND FIRST LADY AND QUEEN OF SOUL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 17, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the extraordinary and consequential life of Aretha Franklin, the "First Lady and Queen of Soul."

Aretha Franklin passed away this morning at the age of 76 at her home in Detroit after waging a long and valiant battle against pancreatic cancer.

For more than a half-century the world was thrilled, inspired, and captivated by the scintillating presence and magical voice of the woman instantly known and recognizable the world over simply as "Aretha."

Born in 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee, Aretha's family eventually relocated to Detroit, where she was raised and learned to sing.

When Aretha was 10, her mother passed, and a number of women, including the legendary gospel singer Mahalia Jackson helped take care of Aretha and her siblings.

It was around this time that Aretha started playing piano, singing and performing gospel songs at her father's church in Detroit.

On singing in church Aretha once remarked, "You have the ethereal feeling there. It is the house of the Lord. It is the Supreme Being. So there is no greater space to sing in than the church."

Aretha recorded a gospel album when she was just 14 and four years later signed with Columbia Records then Atlantic Records, where she achieved international recognition for internationally loved songs such as "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" and "Natural Woman."

Aretha's music defined a modern female archetype: sensual and strong, long-suffering but ultimately indomitable, loving but not to be taken for granted.

Aretha's contributions to music and pop culture received several honors throughout her life.

She won a total of 18 Grammy awards; the first in 1967 for "Respect."

Aretha's "Respect," the Otis Redding song that became her signature anthem, was never just about how a woman wanted to be greeted by a spouse coming home from work.

It was a demand for equality and freedom and a harbinger of feminism, carried by the voice of a woman who would accept nothing less.

Aretha's rendition of "Respect" resonated beyond individual relationships to the civil rights, counterculture and feminism movements.

As Aretha wrote in her autobiography, "It was the need of the nation, the need of the average man and woman in the street, the businessman, the mother, the fireman, the teacher—everyone wanted respect."

Aretha was later honored with a Grammys Legend Award in 1991 and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

In 2014, Aretha reached a new milestone by becoming the first woman to have her 100th hit on Billboard's Hot R&B and Hip-Hop Songs Chart.

In a career spanning more than 50 years, Aretha's performances marked certain pivotal moments in U.S. history.

A longtime family friend of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., she sang "Precious Lord" at the civil rights leader's memorial service.

Aretha was the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

Aretha's stirring rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" at the 1992 Democratic Convention in New York City is considered one of the greatest of all time.

Aretha performed "America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)" at the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

And Aretha brought President Obama—and much of the audience—to tears six years later when she surprised Kennedy Center honoree Carole King with "Natural Woman" in 2015.

Aretha's legacy goes far beyond music.

By the standards of Paradise Valley, the business district and entertainment center of a densely-populated African-American residential area in Detroit, Aretha was a young woman of status and privilege.

Nevertheless she suffered the same humiliations as any black woman travelling through the South or venturing into the white precincts of Detroit.

By the time of the murder of Emmett Till, in 1955, her father, Rev. C. L. Franklin had opened New Bethel Baptist Church to the movement, and, from his pulpit, he denounced segregation and white supremacy.

When Dr. King came to Detroit, he stayed at the home of the Franklins.

On June 23, 1963, Rev. C. L. Franklin helped Dr. King organize the "Walk to Freedom," the march of more than a hundred thousand people through downtown Detroit that set the stage for the March of Washington two months later.

At Detroit's Cobo Hall, Dr. King, acknowledging "my good friend" Rev. C. L. Franklin, delivered a speech filled with passages that would become world famous two months later when spoken at the March on Washington: "This afternoon I have a dream," he told the crowd. "I have a dream," that "little white children and little Negro children" will be "judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

Dr. King later confided to Rev. C. L. Franklin, "Frank, I will never live to see forty."

At Dr. King's funeral, in April, 1968, Aretha was asked to sing Thomas Dorsey's "Precious Lord."

Aretha was now a central voice in both the black community, eclipsing her father, and in the musical world.

In 1970, Aretha offered to post a \$250,000 bond to free Angela Davis, the demonized black activist then being held on charges of conspiracy, kidnapping and murder—charges of which she was later acquitted.

Quoted in Jet magazine at the time, Aretha said: "Angela Davis must go free. Black people will be free."

Mr. Speaker, it is easy to forget how unusual this was in an era when Aretha's Grammy-winning albums were still sold in segregated "race music" sections of record stores and when even the suggestion that a black woman might one day appear on the cover of September Vogue, as Beyoncé now does, would have seemed like a pipe dream.

It is important, too, to note that wearing an Afro or the head wraps Aretha was early to adopt was once as risky a political statement as taking a knee would later become.

And while many of her musical contemporaries rarely ventured from their sartorial safe zones, Aretha remained boldly and exuberantly unconstrained in her tastes, confident about demonstrating both her individuality and her economic might by doing as another powerful black woman, Oprah Winfrey, one day would.

Mr. Speaker, Aretha was a musical, spiritual, and cultural leader for America and around the world.

Aretha exemplified the best of America—powerful, compassionate, fearless, and kind.

Aretha personified the community from which she came: forever young, gifted, and black.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of one of the